



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

on behalf of

Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1)

Meeting on Colombia Peace Process (UN Verification Mission)

United Nations Security Council

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I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1).

I begin by thanking SRSG Massieu for his presentation and reaffirm our support for the efforts of the UN Verification Mission and the Colombian peace process. I also acknowledge the presence of H.E. Claudia Blum, distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Mr. President,

In November, Colombia will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Peace Agreement. It will be an opportune moment for all Colombians, in particular, the signatories to the Final Agreement, to reflect on the gains achieved, whilst also recognizing the inherent challenges and opportunities in its full implementation.

The A3+1 is encouraged by the positive developments in the peace process. We are pleased with the renewed commitment by the parties, as highlighted by the March 10 engagement between President Ivan Duque and Rodrigo Londoño, leader of the Comunes. This, we believe, speaks to the dedication of the signatories and provides reassurance that they are united in fulfilling their obligations.

We urge the parties to stay the course and work more determinedly, in communion with the people, who too, are vested in the success of the Agreement.

In terms of security, we take note of the proposed strategic plan for protection and are pleased with the approval of the public policy guidelines for the dismantling of illegal armed groups. We also appreciate ongoing efforts by the Government through the National Commission on Security Guarantees to strengthen the State's security apparatus.

A robust and integrated approach remains crucial to resolve lingering security challenges, especially in the most marginalized and conflict-affected areas, such as: Cauca, Nariño, Antioquia, Caquetá, Norte de Santander and Catatumbo. We therefore urge the authorities to continue improving prevention and protection measures and bolster the State's presence through the deployment of public security forces in these areas.

The A3+1 also strongly condemns the incessant violence against the groups made most vulnerable, including former FARC-EP combatants, youth, indigenous and Afro-Colombians, social leaders and human rights defenders. The recurrent acts of violence attest to how deep the root causes of the conflict are entrenched.

Advancing on mechanisms such as the Comprehensive Safeguard for women leaders and human rights defenders, together with fulfilling the WPS and YPS agenda, during this peacebuilding stage and in accordance with the Agreement, is therefore pivotal.

Mr. President,

Our delegations underscore that proper reintegration of former combatants into the Colombian society requires full and continued access to basic services, including housing, land and economic

activities. In this respect, we take note of the developments vis-à-vis access to land for former combatants. Similarly, we echo the SG's call for the acceleration of the approval of productive projects so that, by the end of this year, the majority of former combatants are involved in income-generating activities.

We maintain that comprehensive rural reform, in accordance with the full implementation of the chapters on rural reforms and the PNIS, along with recommendations of the High-Level Forum of Ethnic Peoples to address the issues facing former combatants of indigenous and Afro-Colombian origin will enable a smooth reintegration into the Colombian society.

Transitional justice is also of high importance. The A3+1 commends the progress thus far within the Comprehensive System of Truth Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition. Historic wrongs, if not corrected, would remain haunted scars in the soul of many Colombians. Accordingly, we express our appreciation for the work of the SJP, Truth Commission and SIU. We believe that progress on each component, is central to the delivery of truth, justice, accountability and redress.

Additionally, we note concerns on the independence of the SJP and emphasize the need for this component of the Comprehensive System to be fully respected.

We again underscore the importance of the CSIVI and for the parties to capitalize on this mechanism to settle differences. Along this path, we are satisfied that its mandate has been extended until next year. As highlighted in the SG's report, substantive and constructive dialogue between the parties within the Commission and other fora will strengthen implementation across the Agreement in 2021 and help devise joint solutions. To this end, we remain hopeful that the parties can resolve their differences on the National Reintegration System.

Achieving peace in Colombia is also central to preserving Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. It would also ensure a more stable world. In this context, we encourage the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) to engage in dialogue to foster a more peaceful society.

Finally, the A3+1 underscores that durable peace in Colombia will not occur overnight, nor will it immediately reverse the afflictions endured over the years. It, however, will pave the way for a new Colombia and usher in a new dawn for the millions who aspire for a better life.

Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterate support for the SG's five priorities for the comprehensive implementation of the Final Agreement and remain hopeful that they would be achieved through the constructive work of the Tripartite Mechanism during this critical year.

Thank you!